

*MONUMENT TO FAITHFUL SLAVES.*

At a recent meeting of the J. Harvey Mathews Chapter, U. D. C., of Memphis, Tenn., Miss Mary M. Solari read a strong and pathetic paper, advocating the erection of a monument to the faithful old slaves who remained loyal and true to their owners in the dark days of the sixties and on through the infamous reconstruction period. After referring to an article that appeared in the November VETERAN from a correspondent averse to building such a monument, she says in part:

"In the hearts of the mighty fallen is deep rooted the feeling of inextinguishable gratitude to the loyal slaves to whose care the women and children were intrusted during the entire period of the War between the States. It is a sentiment that still remains smoldering in the souls of those who owned them. To those slaves who watched the fireside, tilled the soil, helped spin, weave, and make raiment for the master and sons on the battlefield—to those slaves who protected and provided for the families at home is due a monument that will tell the story to coming generations that cannot be taught the lesson of self-sacrifice and devotion of the slave in any other way. If a time is ever ripe for a noble deed, now is that time, for the grand, courteous Southern slave owner is fast passing away; and to erect the monument would be to hand down to posterity an open book, in which our Southern children can learn that every negro is no 'black fiend.' The North would not understand the sentiment. Of course not.

"Erecting this monument would influence for good the present and coming generations, and prove that the people of the South who owned slaves valued and respected their good qualities as no one else ever did or will do. It would bespeak the real conception of the affection of the owner toward the slave and refute the slanders and falsehoods published in 'Uncle Tom's Cabin.'

"There did exist in the days of trial and hardship not only a perfect understanding but the kindest sympathy, and in thousands of plantations and homes where every white male on the place able to bear arms would go to the battlefield the helpless families of women and children were left entirely to the care and protection of the trusted slaves.

"This monument would have great effect as a proof of the feeling of gratitude that centers the hearts of Southern people from the sixties to the present day, and would link ages of the past to the coming years, when our grandchildren and theirs in turn would stop to inquire the meaning of it and the motive that prompted its erection, learning therefrom truths in the history of the Southern States and from a truthful source.

"The 'Monument to the Blacks' would not only tell the traditions, romance, poetry, and picturesqueness of the South, but would speak the pathetic scenes enacted in many grand old Southern homesteads. No one who was rocked to sleep by the sweet lullaby of the faithful black 'mammy,' listened to her weird ghost stories, nursed at her breast, or played about her cabin door would ever be willing to have these tender memories die out. There is the side of sentiment, the side of gratitude, that those who have felt the touch can never give up, nor can they forget the debt due the faithful 'ten per cent of slaves that remained with their masters after freedom.'

"If 'this is not the time for erecting monuments to the old slaves,' one will never be erected, for the men and women who hold them in tender remembrance will ere long be called to a greater reward, and they alone can fully understand the